



13281 U.S. PTO

NIT-341-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: M. FUKUDA et al
Serial No. 10/180,536
Filed: June 27, 2002
Group Art Unit: 2881
Examiner: E. Gill

31355 U.S.PTO
10/773330



For: METHOD OF PREVENTING CHARGING, AND APPARATUS FOR CHARGED PARTICLE BEAM USING THE SAME

**REQUEST FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION
UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)**

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is a request for filing a continuation application under 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) of pending prior application Serial No. 10/180,536, filed on June 27, 2002, entitled METHOD OF PREVENTING CHARGING, AND APPARATUS FOR CHARGED PARTICLE BEAM USING THE SAME, by the inventors named in the prior application.

1. Enclosed is a copy of the prior application, including the Declaration as originally filed.
2. The Filing Fee is calculated below:

CLAIMS AS FILED IN THE PRIOR APPLICATION
LESS ANY CLAIMS CANCELED BY AMENDMENT BELOW
PLUS ANY CLAIMS ADDED BY ACCOMPANYING PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

3. A Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$1028.00 is enclosed to cover the Filing Fee.

4. Cancel claims 3-10 and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer before calculating the Filing Fee. A Preliminary Amendment is submitted herewith.

5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1417. A duplicate copy of this Request is enclosed for this purpose.

6. Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line:

This is a continuation application of U.S. Serial No. 10/180,536, filed June 27, 2002.

7. New drawings are enclosed, fifteen (15) sheets, Figs. 1-17b.

8. The power of attorney is set forth in the Declaration in the prior application or an associate power of attorney is hereby granted to:

Jeffrey M. Ketchum, Registration No. 31,174
Shrinath Malur, Registration No. 34,663
John R. Mattingly, Registration No. 30,293
Daniel J. Stanger, Registration No. 32,846
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There is a change in the correspondence address.

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Please associate this application with Customer No. 24956.

9. The prior application is assigned to Hitachi, Ltd.

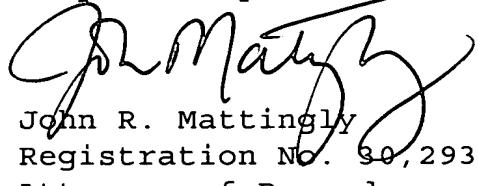
10. Priority of the following Japanese patent
application is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119:

No. 2001-349723, filed November 15, 2001.

The certified priority document has been filed in the prior
application.

The undersigned hereby declares that no matter contained
in the specification, including the claims, and drawings filed
in the present continuation application would have been new
matter in the prior application Serial No. 10/180,536, as
originally filed on June 27, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Mattingly
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Attorney of Record

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Date: February 9, 2004